

Melvin Butte Forest Management Project
Silviculture Treatment Specifications and Implementation Guidelines
Stewardship Imp Units 30
Fuels Imp # TBD

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Management Allocations:

LRMP: Front Country Seen/Unseen MA 18

NWFP: Matrix

EA Unit 67

EA Treatment Name: Plantation thinning

Secondary treatments: pile burning

Stand Characteristics

The plantation consists of a high density but small diameter lodgepole dominated plantation. Current spacing is 1ft-5ft between stems. Ponderosa pine trees are interspersed among the dominant lodgepole and minor white fir natural regeneration component.

Structure: SECC stem exclusion closed canopy-

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Aspect</i>	<i>Slope</i>	<i>Site Index (PIPO)</i>	<i>Plant Assoc. (Volland 1982)</i>
30	11	NE	0-5	91	Mixed conifer –dry CWS115

Table 1. Existing stand condition characteristics

BA/acre 0-9"dbh	BA/acre 9.1-21"dbh	BA/acre 21"+ dbh	Total BA/acre- all size class	TPA 0-9" dbh	TPA 9.1-20.9" dbh	TPA 21+" dbh	Total TPA all size classes
34	23	19	76	1320	26	2	1348

Goals of thinning

Reduce lodgepole stem density among the planted ponderosa pine

Retain all ponderosa pine and white fir

Induce random distribution of stems by leave trees

Silviculture thinning prescription:

- 1) Retain all ponderosa pine and white fir in the stand. Ponderosa pine are spaced approximately 5-20ft apart and white fir occupy <1% of the density.

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- 2) Thin remaining lodgepole pine generally from below on a 15ft spacing (194 TPA) allowing for an irregular arrangement of stems upon completion. Choose healthiest, free of defect and free to grow lodgepole for retention. Remove those that have western gall rust, deformities or those with suppressed crowns.

Piling- If piling occurs within the stand ensure adequate spacing (at least 10 ft) from leave trees to avoid induced mortality from pile burning operations.

No prescribed/ broadcast fire- hand ignitions by fire is **NOT** prescribed